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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 23 2007**U.S. Patent Application No. 10/789,330
Attorney Docket No. ABS-1460 US**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 were pending when last examined, of which Claims 1-7 and 9 stand rejected. Claim 8 is currently allowed. Claims 1 and 7 are amended, and Claims 22-26 are newly added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 4, and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,772,764 to Akimoto (“Akimoto”).

Claim 1 is patentable over Akimoto at least because it recites that “... the cleaning member makes contact with the connection face of the slit nozzle of the slit coater during a cleaning process.” As shown in the subject application, for example in FIG. 2, the cleaning member 130 is placed on the bottom face of the receiving recession 120 such that it contacts the connecting face of the slit nozzle 220 during the cleaning process. In contrast, Akimoto’s lid 36 (which allegedly corresponds to the “cleaning member”) does not contact the connection faces of the nozzles 23a-d because there is a space 48 between the lid 36 and the nozzles 23a-d (see Akimoto’s FIGs. 6 and 7).

Claims 4 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over Akimoto for the same reason as Claim 1.

Claims 1, 4, and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,374,312 to Hasebe et al. (“Hasebe”).

Claim 1 is patentable over Hasebe at least because it recites that “... the cleaning member makes contact with the connection face of the slit nozzle of the slit coater during a cleaning process.” There is no slit nozzle with a connection face in Hasebe, the connection face connecting two inclined faces of the slit nozzle, as recited in Claim 1. Hence, the cleaning member cannot contact a connection face in Hasebe.

Claims 4 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Hasebe for the same reason as Claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasebe in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,019,843 to Park et al. (“Park”). Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

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as being unpatentable over Hasebe or Akimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,210,481 to Sakai et al. ("Sakai"). These rejections assume that Hasebe or Akimoto teach or suggest all the elements of Claim 1 from which these claims depend. However, as explained above, this is not the case. Hence, not all the elements in Claims 2, 3, and 5-7 are taught by the cited combination of references and these claims are patentable over the references.

New Claims

Claims 22-26 are newly added. Independent Claim 22 is patentable over Akimoto and Hasebe at least because it recites that "... the cleaning member makes contact with an end portion of the slit nozzle of the slit coater during a cleaning process." As explained above, the cleaning member does not contact the slit nozzle in the teachings of Akimoto, where the space 48 is between the slit nozzle and the cleaning member. As for Hasebe, it fails to teach a cleaning member that contacts the connection face of the slit nozzle because there is no connection face in Hasebe.

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Attorney Docket No. ABS-1460 US**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-9 and 22-26 are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2257.

Respectfully submitted,

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